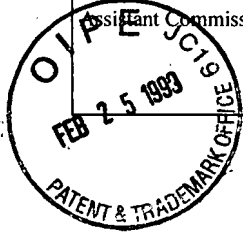


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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 22, 1999



*Jaqueline Lim*  
Jaqueline L. Lim

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Dinesh SOLANKI et al.

Serial No.: 08/949,850

Filing Date: October 14, 1997

For: PRESSURE SENSOR WITH  
TRANSDUCER MOUNTED ON A  
METAL BASE

Examiner: Hung V. Ngo

Group Art Unit: 2831

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 22, 1998 for which a response was due on January 22, 1999 and for which a 1 month extension of time is also requested to extend the time for response from January 22, 1999 to February 22, 1999.

The Office Action stated that the application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Group I (Figures 1 and 2) and Group II (Figures 5a-5c). Applicant elects the claims of Group I, with traverse.

Restriction is traversed on two grounds. First, the Office Action does not provide any reasoning as to why restriction was proper. The Office has the initial burden of establishing why the application claims more than one invention, and the Office Action does not contain any

support for why the application claims more than one invention. Consequently, the Office has not established a prima facie showing that restriction is proper. Applicant thus respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Further, it is believed that examination of both groups of claims in this application does not place an undue burden on the Examiner. Restriction is primarily a mechanism to assure that the Examiner is not overburdened with searching many fields to determine the patentability of unrelated inventions claimed in an application. It is believed that the diligent search for references conducted by the Office in the field of pressure sensors will produce references that pertain to both groups of claims, since the pressure sensor and the housing for the pressure sensor are sufficiently related that references that disclose a pressure sensor will also disclose housings used to produce a pressure sensor. It is thus submitted that it would not be an undue burden for the Office to examine both groups of claims in this application.

The Office Action noted that the response to the restriction requirement must also include a listing of all claims in each group. Group I consists of the following claims: 23-35. Group II consists of the following claims: 36-44.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at the number below if any questions arise.

Applicant requests examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

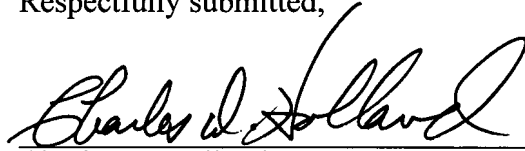
In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 356952000101. However,

the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 22, 1999

By:



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